

I am alarmed at Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to make their stations pre-empt regular programming to run a biased anti-Kerry program two weeks before the election.

The FCC has the obligation to stop this inappropriate partisan ploy to re-instate George Bush and I am asking that you do so. Sinclair uses the public airwaves for free, and as a result is required by law to serve the public interest. Forcing its local affiliates to air a slanted smear piece about John Kerry is hardly serving the public interest--rather it's a breach of contract with the American people.

When large companies control the airwaves, programming goals shift from "what furthers democracy" to "what's best for corporate profits." Furthermore, it results in centralized control over the news (former Soviet-bloc style) and less coverage of local community issues, featuring real people--our friends and neighbors.

Sinclair's stunt shows why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. A good start would be to revamp the license renewal process so that it involves some reckoning of a company's past performance, not just a returned post card. But before all else, Sinclair's illegitimate use of public airwaves must be stopped.

Thank you.